

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ATHENS 04690 201931Z

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ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

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S E C R E T ATHENS 4690

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CY, GR, TU

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S CONVERSATION WITH BRITISH AMBASSADOR

REF: ATHENS 4671

1. AT U.S. REQUEST AMBASSADOR MET WITH UK AMBASSADOR THIS AFTERNOON FOR A GENERAL REVIEW OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN PRESENT CRISIS. AMBASSADOR DESCRIBED GENERALLY MEETING AT GREEK PENTAGON EARLY THIS MORNING AND SUBSEQUENT MEETING SISCO AND HE HAD WITH ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER KYPREOS.

2. TWO AMBASSADORS SHARED RESPECTIVE ASSESSMENTS OF GREEK POSITION AS PRESENTED THIS MORNING BY FOREIGN MINISTER KYPREOS, I.E. PACKAGE OF IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE, 1400 DEADLINE FOR TURKISH FORCES TO WITHDRAW TO ENCLAVES AND PARTICIPATION IN LONDON DISCUSSIONS. BOTH US AND UK APPARENTLY HAD TAKEN SIMILAR POSITION WITH KYPREOS REGARDING UNREALISTIC CHARACTER OF 1400 DEADLINE. AGREED DEADLINE WAS POINT ON WHICH GOG HAD SOME FLEXIBILITY. AMBASSADOR TOLD UK AMBASSADOR THAT HE HAD CONFIRMED WITH BOTH KYPREOS AND GENERAL BONANOS SHORTLY BEFORE 1400 THAT NO GREEK MOVE WOULD BE MADE AT THAT TIME, EMPHASIZING IN MAKING THIS INQUIRY, THAT UNDER-SECRET

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PAGE 02 ATHENS 04690 201931Z

SECRETARY SISCO WAS ENROUTE TO ANKARA AND THAT U.S. MAKING

ALL-OUT EFFORT SO THAT DISCUSSIONS IN LONDON COULD TAKE PLACE.

3. BOTH AGREED GREEKS SEEMED TO BE LOOKING FOR WAY TO MOVE AWAY FROM OUT-AND-OUT CONFRONTATION AND NEEDED ALL THE HELP THEY COULD GET TO THIS END; IT WAS VITALLY IMPORTANT IN THIS CONNECTION FOR TURKS TO BE PRESSED HARDEST TO AGREE ON CEASEFIRE. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF NATO SYGLUNS, AS WELL AS UNSC, COULD ALSO JOIN IN CEASEFIRE EFFORT, AND IN PARTICULAR TO PRESS TURKS HARD.

4. IN REVIEWING HIS OWN CONVERSATION WITH KYPREOS SIR ROBIN MENTIONED SEVERAL POINTS THAT HAD NOT COME UP IN US MEETING WITH HIM. HE HAD STRESSED FACT THAT HMG EARLY THIS MORNING HAD SPOKEN IN VERY STRONG TERMS TO TURKS CONCERNING THEIR MILITARY INTERVENTION IN CYPRUS. HE HAD ALSO STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF GETTING CONSULTATIONS UNDER ARTICLE 4 OF LONDON-ZURICH AGREEMENT LAUNCHED QUICKLY -- WITHIN SPAN OF NEXT DAY OR SO. KYPREOS INDICATED GREEK READINESS TO ENGAGE IN LONDON DISCUSSIONS, EMPHASIZED GREEK NEED TO NEGOTIATE FROM POSITION OF STRENGTH AND EXPLAINED GENERAL MOBILIZATION ORDER AS PROVIDING THAT INGREDIENT. THROUGHOUT HIS CONVERSATION WITH GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER BRITISH AMBASSADOR SAID HE HAD REPEATEDLY RETURNED TO POINT OF DEEP ANXIETY HMG FELT ABOUT PRESENT GRAVE SITUATION AND ITS POTENTIAL THREAT FOR DANGEROUS ESCALATION. IN OTHER RESPECTS HIS ACCOUNT OF CONVERSATION CONFIRMED THAT ALREADY COVERED IN ATHENS 4671.

5. BRITISH AMBASSADOR SAID FRENCH AMBASSADOR HERE HAD CALLED MEETING OF EC-9 FOR SIX P.M. SIR ROBIN PLANNED TO TAKE LINE THAT THAT UK WAS TRYING HARD TO PERSUADE GREEKS AND TURKS TO COME TO LONDON FOR DISCUSSIONS AND WAS WORKING CLOSELY WITH AMERICANS TOWARD THIS OBJECTIVE. HE WOULD IDENTIFY AS CRITICAL ELEMENT NECESSITY OF OBTAINING TURKISH AGREEMENT ON CEASEFIRE. NEED WAS TO FIND WAYS TO PUT PRESSURE ON TURKS TO MOVE IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. HE WOULD ALSO EMPHASIZE THAT UNDER SECRETARY SISCO'S EFFORTS DESERVE FULLY SUPPORT OF EC-9.

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PAGE 03 ATHENS 04690 201931Z

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